

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments to the outstanding Office Action have been carefully considered. By this Amendment the objection raised pursuant to USC § 112 has been addressed. Several of the claims have been rewritten in independent form to address Examiner's indication that claims 11-16 and 27 contained allowable subject matter and were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Other claims have been amended so as to more clearly state the present invention. Several new claims have been added hereby.

Embodiments of the present invention make it possible for a user to seamlessly move between wide area and local area wireless networks. Network selection is based on rules engine processing. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the user is able to input network selection/connection specifying rules. The use of user provided rules as well as rules provided by one or more service providers is a convenient basis for altering the current wireless connection.

In yet another aspect of the invention, a user can enter an instruction or command to initiate manual switching of the wireless connection between different available networks without first sensing a loss of service. Once a connection to the user specified network has been established, the new network connection is monitored on an ongoing basis.

Unlike the pending claims, Rusch US Patent 6,801,777 relied on by the Examiner in support of the outstanding objections merely makes it possible for a user to enter preferences. The system of Rusch then:

"pulls together the user preferences, application requirements, and system information to make an intelligent selection among the available communication networks." (Col. 6, ll 7-9; emphasis added)

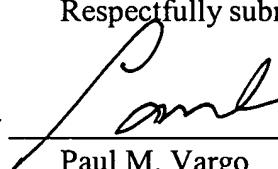
Thus, unlike the claimed structures, Rusch addresses a wide variety of considerations in selecting one of the available networks. Further, and unlike the claimed invention, Rusch discloses and teaches only automatic network switching via the connectivity assistant 112

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therein. Rusch is absolutely silent relative to manually switching networks in the presence of an existing, on-going, connection.

Thus for at least the above reasons the pending claims are allowable and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

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